



# Keys To The Present

Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Kendall County, Inc.

## GSKC Selects New Home

A new chapter in the history of GSKC began August 28<sup>th</sup> as the Society removed its collection from the Boerne Public Library. A continuing dispute over the ownership of books which had been previously agreed upon as belonging to GSKC prompted the move at that time. Within days of the



move, President Gwen Adrian and Tom Page signed a lease for our new quarters at 725 North Main St. This space, which formerly housed the View newspaper, consists of several rooms and gives GSKC four times the space it occupied

at BPL. Not only is there space for GSKC's expanding collection (we expect to add over 400 books within the first month), but also a separate room for computers and a microfilm reader. In addition to a welcoming area and space

for the Collection, there is a small research room and a meeting room for small groups. The County records and our GSKC archives, which have been in storage for over two years, will be in another room.

"Furnishing GSKC's new family history research center as we would like it to be will not be immediate, as we will probably seek grant money to bring it to its potential. However, we plan to open our doors to the public in early October with adequate (Continued on Page 2)

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### Upcoming Events

**GSKC Meeting**  
**Saturday, Sept 18, 10.a.m.**  
**St John's Anglican Church**  
**7 Sisterdale Road**

—  
First Families Reunion &  
Award Ceremony  
October 16

—  
Texas State Meeting  
November 5-6  
Waco, TX

## GSKC First Fall Meeting Saturday

For the first time, members of the Nominating Committee will be selected by the members rather than appointed by the President or Executive Board. This was one of the changes made to the bylaws earlier this year. Five members will be both nominated and elected at the September meeting. The Committee will have two months to select nominees for Society officers. The election of officers will take place at the November

meeting and they will take office January 1, 2011. Also on the business agenda will be the first reading of new Bylaw changes resulting from GSKC's opening of its own research facility. Some Standing Rules changes will also be presented.

### Oral Video Presentation

As a family historian, can you think of a more meaningful gift to a family and community than videoed oral histories of long time

residents? Three men from near Johnson City will introduce the "videoed oral history" project they have established in Blanco County. Joel Honeycutt, interviews long time residents of the county; George Culp, video records the interviews, and Andy Lee, edits the recordings. Copies of the final DVD recordings are given to the interviewee and family and to the local library. (Story Continue on Page 2)

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# Gwen's Gems

By President Gwen Adrian

Sept 2010

Greetings, GSKC Members! A new era in the 28 year history of GSKC has arrived. On September 1<sup>st</sup>, the Society rented a location to house our library collection and provide family history research services for the community. The move was possible ONLY because of the support, understanding, and direction of many GSKC members. Many, many thanks to you all for the strong support this summer.

Now is the time for the fun to begin. With the goal of opening the GSKC Library to the public on October 1<sup>st</sup>, we need help from all to furnish and set up our new building. Mary Alice Dell was appointed Chair of Interior Planning for our new library in December 2009. This means that she will be in charge of the arrangement and obtaining of furnishings for the library. She will need all of our help, brain and brawn, in achieving the October 1<sup>st</sup> goal.

Another first time achievement for GSKC this summer was to sponsor an Eagle Scout Project, the restoration of the Ranzau family cemetery in Kendall County. The project will be discussed elsewhere in this newsletter and an article on the project was published in the Boerne Star Friday, August 27.

Also, our First Families project is alive and well; this summer we have received 20 applications for membership. Regina Adam and Mary Taylor have been the the First Families Committee for GSKC for 12 years. They have been devoted to the project and spent many hours working with descendants of early Kendall County settlers and preparing notebooks with their family information and information about Kendall County in its early years. This year has been a transition year as Mary and Regina retired from this time-consuming labor of love. So, I am glad to report that the project is still going strong. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, October, 16<sup>th</sup>, to congratulate and celebrate with our new First Families inductees. That is when our First Families Celebration will be held; the certificates will be awarded; and the founding families and early settlers of Kendall County will be honored again.

This is an exciting time for GSKC. I look forward to working together with you in the many ways that GSKC functions to promote family history and preserve the heritage of Kendall County. Very best wishes to every one of you, Gwen Adrian

### (New Home continued from page 1)

tables, chairs and other necessary equipment," said Mary Alice Dell, Chair of Library Interior Planning.

#### Furnishing Needed

"Bookcases are one of the prime needs. We invite anyone who would like to make a donation honoring a relative or friend, or as a memorial, to do so at this time. A brass plate acknowledging the honored person would be put on the bookcase."

Among other items needed are library and computer tables and chairs, computers (must accommodate Wifi access), a printer capable of receiving data from several computers, and a small desk and chair for the entrance area. Anyone wishing to make contributions should contact either Gwen Adrian or Mary Alice Dell. (Contact information on Page 4)

### Necrology

We have been saddened by the loss of two long-time members since last May.

Elizabeth Hudson, one of the founding members of GSKC, passed away in June.



And on Sept 4. Dick Magers, who had been a member for over 25 years, left us. A tribute to both of these members will be in the Fall/Winter edition of the 'Keys to the Past'.



We offer our condolences to member Madelyn Oldham on the recent passing of her Mother.

### (Sept Meeting continued from Page 1)

The project is very popular in Blanco County, and the men are enthusiastic about the results. They will present a short video with snippets of what they are doing and what they have learned. In addition to preserving the family and local history of the area, their work is beautiful to see.

In May, GSKC members recommended having a similar project in Kendall County.

Members are encouraged to attend this important meeting. The new home of GSKC, although far from being completely furnished, will be open for inspection by members after the meeting.





## Everyone needs Everybody - Share Your Talents and Skill

As GSKC starts a new era there will be need of many hands to make their family history research center a success. Some tasks relating to preparing and opening the new facility are one time tasks. Others will be on going or for a short period of time. The success of the Genealogical Society rests in the hands of its members. Please consider your talents and abilities and volunteer by contacting either Gwen Adrian or Mary Alice. You are welcome to volunteer for a one-time project or an ongoing one. We need everyone.

### For preparing the facility:

A computer guru to assist us in acquiring and setting up computers

Willing hands to assist in moving materials from storage

Help in re-shelving books

Organizing our files

### Ongoing positions

Two kinds of volunteers to be present daily in the Library –

1) Library Genealogists (currently known as Library Volunteers)

2) Library Staff Volunteers whose role it will be to greet visitors and assist the Genealogists by helping visitor make copies, etc.; and to assist with other office-type tasks and projects. **These volunteers are essential to keeping the doors open to the public.**

3) Members to join a Speaker’s Team to speak to organizations about GSKC.

4) Members to join the Financial Development Team to seek private and public funds to support the Library.

5) Members with grant writing skills.

6) Members with teaching background to join the weekly Genealogy Workshop team.

7) Members with Word processing skills.

Training and written materials will be given to all Library Volunteers, Genealogists, and team members to help them do their job. To paraphrase Uncle Sam – “Your Society Needs You! “

## Minutes of the May, 2010 Meeting

President Gwen Adrian welcomed members. No visitors were present but member Floyd Lunt was present for the first time and was introduced. Pledges of Allegiance to the United States and Texas Flags were given

Minutes were approved as printed in the May 2010 Newsletter.

Treasurer Reported \$15,619.00 total cash, report attached. Income is currently derived from membership dues, seminar and the recent genealogy course.

Journal – Keys to the Past, Spring 2010, was edited and assembled by Mary Alice Dell and was distributed at the meeting. Issues for those who were not in attendance will be mailed. We need an editor for the Fall Edition .

A Salt Lake City trip for GSKC was announced. Rooms have been reserved at The Plaza Hotel, next door to the Family History Library. The dates are Sunday, April 10 through Sunday, April 17, 2011. Rooms will rent for \$82/day for a single or double, and \$89/day for a triple or quad. (plus 13% tax). People who are going should call the hotel to make their room reservation and identify themselves as GSKC. If we have as many as 12 attend, we will be given a free genealogy seminar by the hotel. Mary Alice and Harry will go with us and will be glad to help. They also will present two “getting ready” sessions in preparation for the trip. A clipboard was passed around for those interested in going on the trip to sign up. Twelve people had expressed interest prior to the meeting; with those that signed up at the meeting the total grew to 19. Information about the trip will be shared with individuals who express interest in going. The Plaza Hotel phone number is 801- 521-0130.



Genealogy Course Completed: Thanks to the Dells, the graders – Carl and Louise Taylor & Jerry Ball, the hospitality person – Linda Stephens, & the course administrator – Stephen Bishop.

Fundraising Committee report given by Sharon Wolff: Society Cookbook still needs recipes. Later in the meeting, Sharon announced that, during the summer, members would receive in the mail an invitation to attend a Mad Hatter’s Tea Party – as a fundraiser for the Society. (Continued on Page 4)



**The Genealogical Society of Kendall  
County Newsletter**

Gwen Adrian President  
830-249-2085 - gwensadrian@aol.com)  
Nancy McLarry, Vice President  
Teal Anderson, Recording Secretary  
Sharon Wolff, Corresponding Secretary  
Harry Dell, Treasurer  
Bruce Mergele, Librarian  
  
Mary Alice Dell, Editor (made135@gvtc.com)  
P.O. Box 623  
Boerne, TX 78006  
830-537-5325  
GSKC web site [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txgskc](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txgskc)

**Welcome New Members**

Brenda Seidensticker  
(Bohnert)  
302 FM 473  
Comfort, Texas 78013  
(830) 995-2589  
55ranch@hctc.net

Patty Baker  
123 Cypress Lane  
Boerne, TX 78006-5001  
(830) 230-5185  
pbaker@gvtc.com

Barbara Racinowski (Susin)  
205 Village Dr.  
Boerne, Tx 78006-2154  
(830) 816-5251  
racinowski@gvtc.com

Cheryl Lester  
101 Mountain View  
Boerne TX 78006  
(830) 537-6191  
hwlester@gvtc.com

**(Minutes continued from page 3)**

Membership Committee report given by Carol Smith. The Society now has 185 members.

The First Families Project was discussed by Mary Alice Dell, and she stressed the need for members to help the Committee Chairs VaNelle Magers and Alice Klein and to work with perhaps one individual who is interested in applying for the Project. A signup sheet was passed around to identify members who were willing to work with an applicant.

President Adrian thanked Hostesses Linda Stephens, Nancy James, Nelda Vogt and Carol Smith.

Members then broke into groups to discuss "Brainstorming to visualize your ideal Genealogical Society" Each table leader then presented ideas from their group. Ideas will be compiled by the President.

Adjourned for the summer at 12:25 p.m.

**GSKC Sponsors Eagle Scout Cemetery Project**

This summer GSKC was asked by Jonathan Kuntz of Round Rock TX to sponsor his Eagle Scout Project to restore an old Ranzau family cemetery located in the Pleasant Valley area of Kendall County. The Society, which is always interested in preservation of Kendall County family history, was honored to be his sponsor. Jonathan chose this project because he and his father are related to the Ranzau family. The current owner of the land, Gary Minnich, also a descendant of the Ranzau family, enthusiastically supported the project. The most recent marked grave was in the 1930's and it appeared



the cemetery had not been attended for at least 50 years. Neighbors Lindsey Hicks and Joyce Rust generously assisted the project. GSKC member Bryden Moon researched the names of those buried in the cemetery.

Jonathan directed the project and recruited his family and friends to assist in cleaning, restoring and fencing the cemetery. On Friday and Saturday, July 30 and 31<sup>st</sup>, his crew of workers including his parents, Elizabeth and Bryan, and sister Kristi and Ariel, Jerome Ranzau, whose grandparents are buried in the cemetery, Minnich, Gwen and Earl Adrian and many friends from Round Rock transformed the cemetery. A barbecue lunch was provided by Minnich and Kunz family. "Restoring the Ranzau Cemetery was a tribute to the Ranzau family and a gift to Kendall County local history and genealogy." said President Adrian.